

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A locking means for an over-centre fastener for preventing unintentional opening of the fastener, including manually releasable snap-action retaining means (30, 34; 36) between a movable lever (21) and a stationary part (20, 27) of the fastener, said retaining means comprising a spring (30; 36) attached to the lever (21a; 21b) and abutment means (31; 38) associated with the stationary part (20, 27), **c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t** the spring (30) has one end attached to the lever (21a) and an opposite, movable end thereof forming engagement means (34a; 36a) adapted to engage the abutment means (31; 38) in a closed position of the fastener, said opposite end of the spring being formed with guide means (34a, 34c; 36d, 36e) guiding movement of said opposite end of the spring relative to the lever (21a).
2. (Original) The locking means according to claim 1, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t** the spring is a leaf spring (30).
3. (Original) The locking means according to claim 1, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t** the spring is a wire spring (36).
4. (Currently amended) The locking means according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t** said guide means comprise at least one portion (34a, 34c; 36, 36d) of said spring (30; 36) bent to encompass a portion of said lever.
5. (NEW) The locking means according to claim 3, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t** said guide means comprise at least one portion (34a, 34c; 36, 36d) of said spring (30; 36) bent to encompass a portion of said lever.